



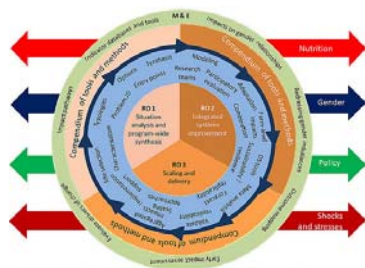
Matters ARISING

Matters ARISING is the news update of the Africa RISING program. It brings you news and updates on from our projects in East, West and Southern Africa.

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Program news

Africa RISING program document: The thinking behind the overall approach



The Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING) program comprises three research-for-development projects supported by the United States Agency for International Development as part of the U.S. government's Feed the Future initiative. This program document outlines the underlying principles of and implementation plan for the research that will be undertaken by the three Africa RISING projects in West Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa and the Ethiopian highlands.

Early win projects completed in 2012

In the first year of the program, to produce some short-term outputs and to provide outputs that support the longer term objectives of the individual projects, Africa RISING decided to fund several 'quick win' projects in each of the regions. The approved projects resulted from a call in each region and an assessment of the proposals using criteria developed by IITA, ILRI, and USAID.

West Africa news

Enabling Ghanaian communities to analyse their own situations to find better solutions

Rural livelihoods in West Africa are mainly agro-based and depend on crop and livestock production, processing, and subsequent marketing. Farmers produce cereals, legumes, vegetables and fruit trees and keep livestock. However, optimal system productivity is limited by socioeconomic, biophysical, institutional,

financial, and sometimes, policy constraints. This report summarizes the results of discussions with 47 communities and local leaders undertaken by a multidisciplinary facilitation teams in project sites in Ghana.

Mali stories of nutrition and health – where the 'first 1000 days' fit in the first 300 days of Africa RISING

During the early win phase of the Africa RISING project; nutrition-related activities were conducted in Koutiala in the Sikasso region of Mali from July to October, 2012. This document contains stories from people who have benefited from the nutrition-related activities such as: representatives of participating health centres, trainers, trainees and some of their spouses. The majority of the stories are in Bambara (local language), French and English

East and Southern Africa news

Boosting the production of quality seeds of improved varieties of maize and legumes in Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia

While improved varieties can give farmers increased yields, the percentage of small-scale farmers in sub-Saharan Africa growing them is very low, especially for legumes. One reason for this is the unavailability and unaffordability of the seeds. The early win project on 'Multiplication of breeder and basic seed for Maize and Legumes in Tanzania, Malawi, and Zambia' aimed to speed up the production of breeder and foundation seeds of improved varieties released by researchers to make them available to farmers.

Safe or a deadly poison? Determining the levels of harmful 'mycotoxins' in key staples in Tanzania

Mycotoxins are deadly chemicals produced by naturally-occurring fungi which contaminate key staples crops while in the field and in storage and adversely affect the health of human and livestock. This quick-win project entitled 'Mycotoxin contamination in Tanzania: quantified the problem in maize and cassava in

households and markets' was the first such comprehensive study ever to determine the prevalence of mycotoxin contamination.

Ethiopia news

Africa RISING trainers in Ethiopia learn to use the SLATE sustainable livelihoods asset evaluation tool



In April, the Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING) and Nile Basin Development Challenge (NBDC) jointly

organised Training of Trainers workshop in the use of SLATE: A tool for Sustainable Livelihoods Asset Evaluation.

Africa RISING Ethiopia project completes livelihoods survey for eight sites

From 19-25 May 2013, the Africa RISING project in the Ethiopian highlands carried out livelihoods survey in the eight research sites/kebeles in four woredas (Goshe Bado, Gudo Beret, Salka, Ilu-Sanbitu, Jawe, Upper-Gana, Emba-Hazti, Tsibet) in Amhara, Tigray, Oromia and SNNPR regions.

"I really like to plough, though I get tired afterwards."

This is the story of Worknesh Gurmesa a farmer in Chelanko Kebele. This story explains the importance of women's inclusion and how access to markets affects as well as changes lives.

Contacts

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Upcoming Events

3-5 September 2013: Africa RISING East and Southern Africa review and planning meeting, Malawi

24-26 September 2013; Africa RISING Annual Learning Event, Ethiopia

11-13 November 2013: Africa RISING-CSISA Joint Monitoring and Evaluation meeting, Ethiopia

More events <http://africa-rising.wikispaces.com/Calendar>

Links

Photos: www.flickr.com/photos/africa-rising

Presentations: www.slideshare.net/africa-rising

Outputs: cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/16498

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